

**REMARKS**

The Applicants request reconsideration of the rejection.

Claims 1-28 remain pending.

Claims 23 and 28 were rejected under 35 USC §101 as being directed to unpatentable subject matter. Specifically, although the claims were recited properly, they were read on a potentially ambiguous portion of the disclosure so as to be interpreted as improper. To avoid the possibility of the improper form noted by the Examiner, the Applicants have adopted the Examiner's kind suggestion to amend the specification.

Claims 1-2, 4, 15-17, 19, 21-22, and 24-25 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ho, et al., USPGP No. 2004/0254934 (Ho) in view of Kavalam, et al., USPGP 2005/0091658 (Kavalam) and Wiik, et al., USP 5,260,551 (Wiik). The Applicants traverse as follows.

Claim 1 is directed to an access controller that controls an access to an information resource stored in a storage device connected to the access controller through a network through which a plurality of such access controllers and storage devices are also connected. The access controller has an access restriction module, an access interception module, an input module, and a list update module.

Ho is cited as disclosing the claimed access restriction module. To focus argument on the remaining aspects of the rejection, the Applicants do not at this time attack the application of Ho in the combination rejection.

The secondary reference to Kavalam is cited as disclosing the claimed access control module, the Examiner noting that Kavalam does not specifically show the claimed access prohibition list. Instead, the Examiner asserts Kavalam's teaching of a "lock down", isolation, or "sandboxing" that allegedly must have "means to detect" a malicious occurrence.

Respectfully, the system settings that Kavalam seeks to protect from change, while denoted "system resources" in the patent, are operating system resources, not information system resources such as data files, images, music, etc. as required by the claims. Moreover, although Kavalam protects against change to the system settings, it is not "user access" that is prevented in the sense of the claimed invention. Indeed, it is not the same "user access" as even disclosed by Ho, which is an argument against the motivation to combine with Ho.

Moreover, Kavalam has a US filing date that is later than that of the present invention, and thus must rely on its provisional application filing date to antedate the present application so as to be available as a reference. However, the provisional contains only a general disclosure of identity-based access control, with some specific examples, but without the disclosure of the passage relied on in the rejection (paragraph [0062] of the PGP).

Wiik is cited against the claimed access interception module, but actually discloses an electronic lock for restricting physical entry to a building, not for prohibiting access to an information resource as claimed. Wiik is also cited against the claimed list update module, but Wiik only discloses updating of a single physical

lock, whereas the claimed list update module must be configured to update each of the access prohibition list of each of the claimed plurality of access controllers on the network.

Further, despite that Ho, Kavalam, and Wiik disclose such disparate technologies that their combination is dubious, any possibly motivated combination would still fail to include at least the claimed access control module and list update module as advanced above, and would be limited to restricting physical access to the system settings of a single computer. Accordingly claim 1 is patentably distinguishable from Ho, Kavalam, and Wiik, and independent claims 15, 19, 21, 22, and 24 are similarly distinguishable.

Dependent claims 2, 4, 16-17, and 25 inherit the patentable features of their respective independent claims, and are thus distinguishable at least on those grounds.

Claims 3 and 26 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ho in view of Kavalam in view of Wiik and Herland, et al., USPPGP 2003/0018747 (Herland). In addition to noting that these dependent claims inherit the patentable features of the independent claims argued above, the Applicants repeat by reference their arguments distinguishing Herland, advanced in the Reply submitted February 15, 2006.

Claim 5 was rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ho in view of Kavalam, Wiik, and Wilson, et al., USPPGP 2003/0041088 (Wilson). In addition to noting that this dependent claim inherits the patentable features of its

independent claim argued above, the Applicants repeat by reference their arguments distinguishing Wilson, advanced in the Reply submitted February 15, 2006.

Claims 6-8 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ho in view of Kavalam, Wiik, Wilson, and Trossen, et al., USPGP 2004/0153552 (Trossen). In addition to noting that these dependent claims inherit the patentable features of their independent claim argued above, the Applicants repeat by reference their arguments distinguishing Wilson and Trossen, advanced in the Reply submitted February 15, 2006.

Claims 9-10, 18, 20, 23, and 27-28 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ho in view of Kavalam, Wiik, and Wang, et al., USPGP 2004/0203589 (Wang). The Applicants traverse as follows.

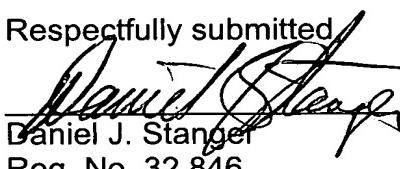
Regarding claim 9, the Examiner asserts that Wang restricts access by first referencing a prohibited list prior to the access control list. However, Wang is directed to a scheme for rejecting spam, not access to an information resource or anything else. In detail, Wang first checks a receiver black list, then an operator black list, looking for a prohibition. If none is found, Wang then checks a receiver white list, and finally an operator white list, looking to allow the message sent by the sender. If the sender is not found, the sender is designated "untrusted". Such does not comport with the claimed structure and steps for preventing access to user information. Indeed, Wang does not seem to be properly combinable with the other references with which it is applied, and in any event does not reach the claims in any motivated combination with them.

Claims 18, 20, 23, 27, and 28 are similarly distinguishable.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicants request reconsideration of the rejection and allowance of the claims.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of Mattingly, Stanger, Malur & Brundidge, P.C., Deposit Account No. 50-1417 (referencing attorney docket no. MEI-101).

Respectfully submitted

  
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Date: July 25, 2006